

IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all claims under examination is submitted, and the status of each is identified. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.(currently amended): A process of producing an ethylenically unsaturated amide, wherein a nitrile is treated with an enzyme which is a nitrile hydratase in an aqueous medium, characterised in that the nitrile hydratase is ~~obtainable~~ obtained from a microorganism of ~~the~~ a species of Dietzia ~~Dietzia-~~ genus, which nitrile hydratase is comprised within whole cells of the microorganism, and which microorganism is selected from the group consisting of Dietzia natronolimnaios and Dietzia psychrocaliphila.

2. (withdrawn): A process of producing an ammonium salt of an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, wherein an amide is treated with an enzyme which is an amidase in an aqueous medium, characterised in that the amidase is obtainable from a microorganism of the Dietzia genus.

3. (original): A process according to claim 1 in which the ethylenically unsaturated nitrile is (meth) acrylonitrile.

4. (previously presented): A process according to claim 1 in which the ethylenically unsaturated amide is (meth) acrylamide.

5. (withdrawn): A process according to claim 2 in which the ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid is (meth) acrylic acid.

6-7. (cancelled):

8. (currently amended): A process according to claim 1 in which the microorganism is ~~Dietzia natronolimnaios~~ Dietzia natronolimnaios strain NCIMB 41165.

9. (withdrawn-currently amended): ~~Dietzia natronolimnaios~~ Dietzia natronolimnaios strain NCIMB 41165.

10. (withdrawn-currently amended):Nitrile hydratase enzyme obtainable by culturing ~~Dietzia natronolimnaios~~ Dietzia natronolimnaios strain NCIMB 41165.

11.(withdrawn-currently amended): Amidase enzyme obtainable by culturing ~~Dietzia natronolimnaios~~ Dietzia natronolimnaios strain NCIMB 41165.